

# Diseases You Can Get From Wildlife

Centimeters



Research and Design:  
Tyler Stitt DVM • MPH&TM

**Government  
of Alberta**



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Environment



BC Centre for Disease Control



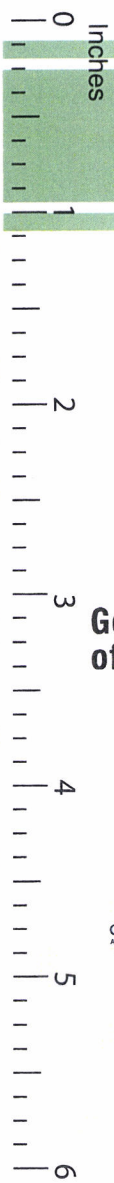
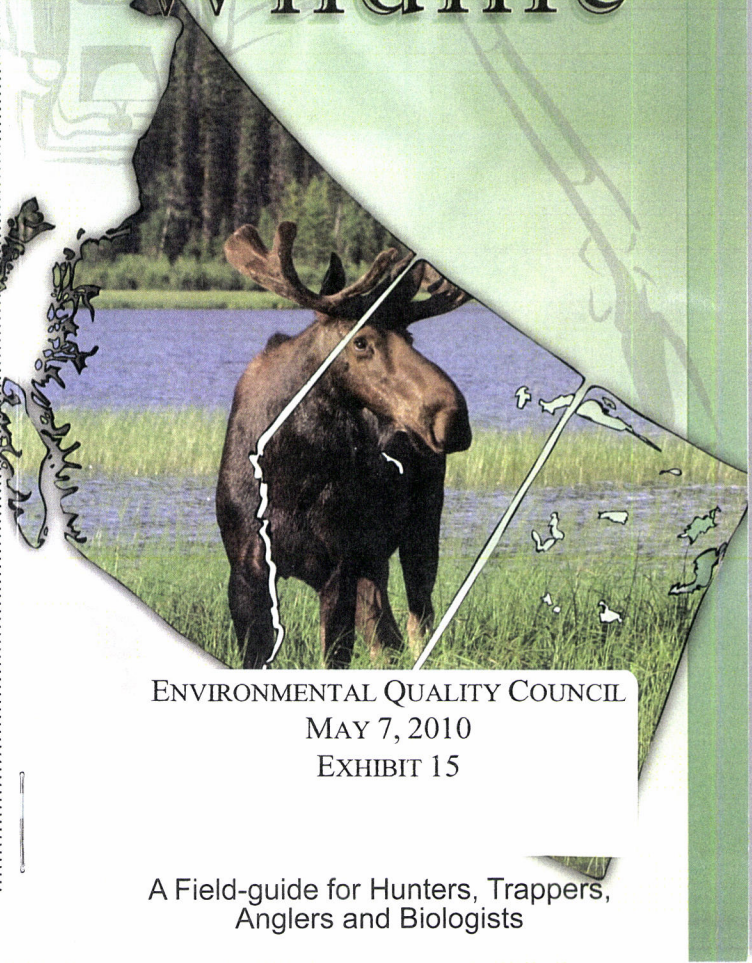
Unless otherwise noted, all photos provided by  
the CCWHC photo archive

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MAY 7, 2010

EXHIBIT 15

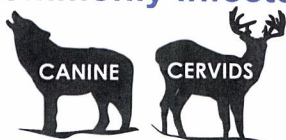
A Field-guide for Hunters, Trappers,  
Anglers and Biologists



# Hydatid Disease

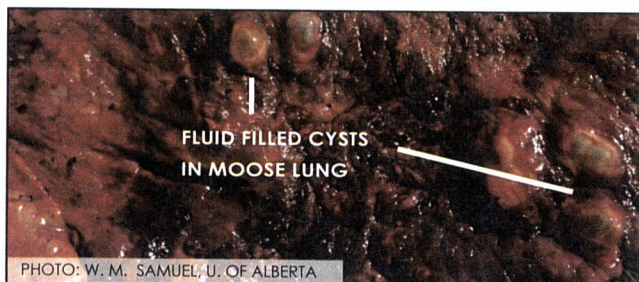
Caution

## Commonly infected wildlife



### Is this animal infected?

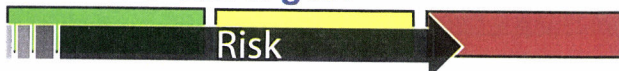
- Adult worms live and grow in infected dog and wild canine (**wolf & coyote**) intestines
- Affected cervids often have large fluid-filled cysts in the lungs or liver - *these cysts are NOT infectious to people*



### Can I get it?

- **YES!** Dogs and wild canines eat cysts in cervid lungs & liver, and worms mature
- The worms release eggs in the dog & wild canine feces, and eggs stick to their fur
- The shed eggs can infect people

### How bad can it get?



26 Gets worse with time and depends on organ affected

## Protect myself and others

- When handling live canines, their feces, pelts or carcasses:
  - Wear disposable gloves
  - Practise good hygiene
  - WASH YOUR HANDS!
  - Disinfect your work space



## Symptoms in people

- Severity of symptoms depends on if and where the juvenile worms form cysts:
  - Brain → Death
  - Lungs → Breathing difficulties
  - Abdomen → Liver damage
- Consult your doctor if you have health concerns after handling wolf or coyote carcasses

## Safe for pets?

- **NO!**
  - Cysts found in cervids can infect pet dogs
  - Once infected, pet dogs can be a source of infection to you and your family
  - *DO NOT ALLOW dogs access to lungs and liver from cervids*



## What causes it?

- The tapeworms *Echinococcus granulosus* and *Echinococcus multilocularis* cause hydatid disease